

Hope Bennett, Chair
Caroline Kunitake, Vice-Chair
Jennifer Li Dotson, Member
Valerie Lam, Member
Raven Sevilleja, Member
Helen Stewart, Member
Renee Sonobe Hong, Ex-Officio

Honolulu County Committee on the Status of Women

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

925 Dillingham Boulevard, Suite 200 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

MEETING MATERIALS

Friday, June 2, 2023

1:00 p.m.

Kapālama Hale, Conference Room 277
925 Dillingham Boulevard, Honolulu, Hawai'i
Via ZOOM

Attachments:

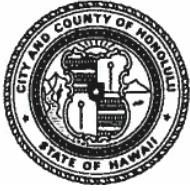
- 1) May 5, 2023 Meeting Minutes draft
- 2) Page 1-2 of the Honolulu County Committee on the Status of Women (HCCSW) Operating Guidelines
- 3) Hawai'i Women's Equality Roadmap: A Ten-Point Plan for Governor Green from the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women (HSCSW)
- 4) Missing and Murdered Native Hawaiian Women and Girls (MMNHWG) Task Force Report

MEETING MATERIALS

Friday, June 2, 2023

Attachment # 1

May 5, 2023 Meeting Minutes draft



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MEETING MINUTES

Friday, May 5, 2023

1:00 p.m.

Kapālama Hale, Conference Room 277
925 Dillingham Boulevard, Honolulu, Hawaii
Via ZOOM

1. Call to Order

Committee Members present: Hope Bennett, Caroline Kunitake, Jennifer Li Dotson, Valerie Lam, Helen Stewart, and Ex-Officio Member Renee Sonobe Hong

Committee Members absent: Raven Sevilleja

Staff Resources Personnel for the Committee present at the meeting:

Shane Akagi, Administrator, DCS, Office of Grants Management (OGM)

Rebecca Espinoza, DCS/OGM

Blessing Quon, DCS/OGM

Lauren Jagla, DCS/OGM

Spenser Kunishige, DCS/OGM

Kathleen Kelly, Deputy Corporation Counsel, assigned to the Committee

The meeting of the Honolulu County Committee on the Status of Women (HCCSW) was called to order by Chair Hope Bennett (Chair) at 1:03 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes: February 3, 2023 Meeting and March 3, 2023 Meeting

Vice-Chair Kunitake motioned to accept the February 3, 2023 and March 3, 2023 Meeting Minutes, motion was seconded by Member Stewart. All Committee members present said aye to approve the February 3, 2023 and March 3, 2023 Meeting Minutes. Hearing no objections from the Committee members present, the motion passed unanimously.

3. Oral Testimonies and Written Testimonies from the Public

There was no oral (in person or online) testimony or written testimony for this meeting.

4. Testimony/Comments from Department Agencies

Mr. Akagi announced that First Vice-Chair Kristen Konishi has resigned effective May 4, 2023. Mr. Akagi also informed Committee members on the procurement exemptions: printing of materials. The City's print shop is able to do large production and laying out of the materials. The Committee will need to decide on what items to print, then cover the materials. The design and layout would be covered no-cost via the City's print shop. Mr. Akagi can connect the Committee to the City's print shop once a formal request for services is submitted to the Department of Customer Services (CSD). Mr. Akagi also noted that he will be leaving the meeting early and that the DCS staff will provide support to the HCCSW.

Vice-Chair Kunitake asked if the Committee is able to encumber funds to print materials for the next fiscal year, since they may not have materials to print by the end of the current fiscal year. Mr. Akagi will check to see what can be done.

Chair Bennett asked if there is a new executive director for the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women (HSCSW) since Ms. Jabola-Carolus has stepped down. Mr. Akagi advised that there are no updates at this time; once someone is appointed we will hear from the mass email that is usually sent out.

5. Video from the Pacific Survivor Center via the Department of Community Services

Mr. Akagi played the video from the Pacific Survivor Center. Chair Bennett remarked that it was a powerful video.

Shane Akagi left the meeting at 1:15 p.m.

6. FOR DISCUSSION: Procurement Process: Potential Exemptions

This agenda item was discussed in Mr. Akagi's update (agenda item 4).

7. FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION: New Permitted Interaction Groups

Formation of Permitted Interaction Groups to investigate and report on subject matters identified in the Committee's Strategic Plan.

The Committee discussed potential Permitted Interaction Groups (PIGs), subject matters/categories within the strategic plan to focus on, end products, and further actions.

Chair Bennett stated that as opposed to service projects, the Committee's time and

resources would be better used to do research and reporting that could be printed by the City's print shop. Identified two (2) PIGs: Research PIG and Execution PIG. The Research PIG would be responsible for compiling information, identifying resources and experts within the community, providing written synopsis, and gathering speakers to present at meetings. The Execution PIG would be responsible for the execution of the documents; members familiar with the City's procurement process or interested in seeking out university resources or people capable of compiling and synthesizing the data presented (i.e. a writer).

Vice-Chair Kunitake shared that the County of Hawai'i (Big Island) regularly puts together a brochure that lists services and resources available on the island. A similar document that is catered towards women would be valuable. However, a brochure handout is very different from a research report. The Committee does not have the funds to hire a principal investigator or someone responsible for doing the research project entirely. Other commissions have done outreach with a poll at community events and have reported on that; however that is not a true academic study. Also, the HSCSW have put together a report designed to give to the Hawai'i State Legislature to promote specific legislation. The Committee could compile the information from the community experts and highlight issues and gaps for Honolulu County into a document such as a brochure or printed report. Then give the document to community leaders such as the Mayor and the Honolulu City Council; push at the county level to result in policy change.

Jennifer Dotson joined the meeting at 1:34 p.m.

Member Lam requested clarification regarding the topics concerned, Chair Bennett responded that is up for discussion. Vice-Chair Kunitake added that the type of document(s) created would depend on what the Committee members would want to do, and the time and effort they are able to put forth.

Chair Bennett stated that she would like to request that someone from the HSCSW attend the HCCSW meetings, to provide an update on what the HSCSW is doing so that efforts are not replicated.

Member Dotson suggested that the Committee take on a convener role or convener type of activity – lend themselves to convening the right people and resources in the same room to discuss issues, priorities, plans, solutions, etc. She strongly feels that convening is valuable since it may lead to actions such as partnerships, design thinking, etc.

- Member Stewart requested clarification regarding the Committee's audience – other agencies and organizations interested in the wellbeing of women and girls, or convening to shape policy. Vice-Chair Kunitake believes that because they are a Committee for the City and County of Honolulu, they will need to serve their audience: Honolulu County. So then the Committee would need to think about what they are capable of accomplishing with their resources and what areas the Committee members are interested in. Vice-Chair Kunitake and Member Stewart are interested in caregiving.

- Member Lam asked what the Committee would be convening around, what is the purpose. Member Stewart stated that they could be convening towards informing, advocating, securing interest and funding, shaping policies, decision making about advocacy support, etc. She also advised that there are unanticipated consequences to every discussion and policy decision made, so the Committee could be the “canary in the mine” regarding actions for women and girls.

Chair Bennett brought up logistical questions regarding the implementation stage and PIGs for the processes, if the Committee were to explore the opportunity to convene a forum of interested parties. Kathleen Kelly advised that the Committee will not need a PIG for the processes, they could function as a committee on the whole. The Committee will have to assign one (1) to two (2) members for each task, for example to develop a list of participants, list of candidates for facilitators, list of potential venues, etc. Then the member(s) will come back to the entire group and share their findings/developments and make the decisions together as a Committee. Chair Bennett mentioned that they could possibly partner with other organizations.

Chair Bennett asked the Committee to deliberate on the discussion and think of the next steps.

8. FOR ACTION: Article IV, Section 6.4 (Majority approval required to notify the Mayor of member who has accumulated three unexcused absences)

This agenda item was discussed in Mr. Akagi’s update (agenda item 4).

9. Next Meeting: June 2, 2023

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 2, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. as a remote meeting via Zoom with an in-person location at Kapālama Hale.

10. Adjournment

Member Lam made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Member Dotson seconded. Hearing no objections, the motion carried unanimously and Chair Bennett adjourned the meeting at 2:31 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

SHANE AKAGI, OGM Administrator

DATE

APPROVED:

HOPE BENNETT, Chair

MEETING MATERIALS

Friday, June 2, 2023

Attachment # 2

Page 1-2 of the Honolulu County Committee on the
Status of Women (HCCSW) Operating Guidelines

HONOLULU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

The Honolulu County Committee on the Status of Women (“the Committee”) was created pursuant to state law, Hawaii Revised Statutes (“H.R.S.”) Section 367-4. The language in H.R.S. Section 367-4 states as follows, “[t]he mayor of each county shall appoint a county committee on the status of women charged with the duty and responsibility of developing information as the state commission on the status of women requires or as the committee deems advisable concerning the status of women within the respective counties; and other appropriate duties and responsibilities as may be deemed necessary by each county.”

OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

ARTICLE I NAME

Section 1.1 The name of the committee shall be:

The Honolulu County Committee on the Status of Women.

ARTICLE II AUTHORITY

Section 2.1 The Committee was created by H.R.S. §367-4.

ARTICLE III PURPOSE

Section 3.1 The purpose of the Committee is to develop information and conduct other appropriate duties and responsibilities as the state commission on the status of women requires or as the committee deems advisable concerning the status of women within the respective counties; and other appropriate duties and responsibilities as may be deemed necessary by each county such as to advise the Mayor and the City Council and collaborate with other State and County organizations concerning O’ahu’s women.

Section 3.2 The Committee’s duties include the public recognition of contributions by women, the assessment of changes in women’s status, and the promotion of equality of the sexes. The Committee shall also work closely with City agencies to eliminate sex discrimination and provide support to affirmative action programs.

ARTICLE IV

MISSION

Section 4.1 The mission of the Committee is to (1) address issues and concerns of women in the City and County of Honolulu and advise, make recommendations and follow-up evaluations to the Mayor and City Council; (2) advance the status of women through education, awareness, development, and training; (3) and, acknowledge, nurture, and learn from the diverse culture Honolulu's women have to offer.

ARTICLE V

OFFICERS

Section 5.1 Officers of the Committee shall be elected annually and shall serve a one year term in the following capacity: Chair; not more than three (3), Vice-Chair members, who shall be designated as First Vice-Chair, Second Vice-Chair, and Third Vice-Chair; Secretary; and, Treasurer. The Chair shall be elected annually from members of the Committee, with the exception of ex-officio members. Ex-officio members shall be allowed to participate in all activities and events, but shall not have a vote for officer positions.

Section 5.2 In the event of a vacancy or absence of the Chair, the First Vice-Chair shall assume all duties and responsibilities of the Chair, unless the First Vice-Chair is absent or disqualified. In the event that the First Vice-Chair is unable to serve, the Second Vice-Chair, then Third Vice-Chair, respectively shall assume all duties and responsibilities of the Chair in ascending numerical order.

Section 5.3 Any officer vacancies other than the Chair shall be filled by appointment by the Chair for the remaining interim period.

Section 5.4 The Chair, with the approval of a majority of the Committee, shall designate the duties of the officers in addition to those specified in the policies and procedure of the Committee and as deemed appropriate by each officer.

Section 5.5 All newly elected officers shall assume their duties effective July 1st of each year or as soon thereafter as an election can be held, and in accordance with City rules and regulations.

Section 5.6 Elected officers may be re-elected and serve subsequent terms of office in the above referenced positions.

ARTICLE VI

MEMBERSHIP

Section 6.1 The Committee shall be comprised of members and ex-officio members appointed by the Mayor. The ex-officio members shall be comprised of individuals from the following departments and/or offices: The Corporation Counsel; the Office of Children and Youth; the Equal Opportunity Office; the State Commission on the Status of Women, and other Departments the Mayor deems appropriate and shall not have voting rights.

Section 6.2 Members appointed by the Mayor shall be based on their interest, knowledge, and ability to make contributions towards advancing the status of women in the County. (H.R.S. §367-4).

Section 6.3 The Committee shall make recommendations for members for the Mayor's review.

MEETING MATERIALS

Friday, June 2, 2023

Attachment # 3

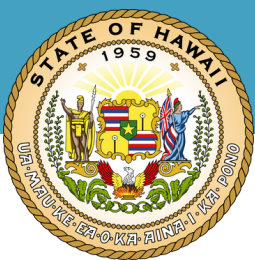
Hawai'i Women's Equality Roadmap: A Ten-Point Plan
for Governor Green from the Hawai'i State Commission
on the Status of Women (HSCSW)

From the
HAWAI'I STATE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

2023

HAWAI'I WOMEN'S EQUALITY ROADMAP

A TEN POINT PLAN FOR GOVERNOR GREEN



Introduction

This plan was developed from over half a decade of lessons learned helping women's advocacy in Hawai'i as the Executive Director of the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women.

This plan was also informed by a comprehensive analysis of global measurements to track progress on women's equality measurements such as the Gender Equality Index, Global Gender Gap Index, Social Institutions and Gender Index, UN Sustainable Development Goal #5 and Institute for Women's Policy Research's Status of Women in the States.

Hawai'i typically performs well in national rankings for women due to capitalist metrics such as having the highest percentage of female-owned businesses, highest life expectancy, lowest homicide rate, and lowest health care uninsured rate. Yet the quality of life for women who are not business owners remains alarmingly poor.

Due to slowing economic growth coupled with less wealth distribution, women's struggle to survive in Hawai'i is intensifying. Women and girls in Hawai'i face violence on a mass scale, must contend with the third-least affordable housing market in the nation, and earn extremely low wages relative to other high-cost states. Hawai'i is the fourth worst state for women's employment after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Progress on gender equality has stalled in the United States except in educational attainment. Correcting this course locally will require a focus on raising certain gender equality indicators. This plan is cognizant of needed corrections and is the key to continuity in the government's work for women. The following are huge but doable strides toward women's equality in Hawai'i during your administration:

The Plan

1. Modernize women's advocacy to be more scientific by developing a Women's Equality Index specific to Hawai'i that measures progress or backsliding on the status of women.

1. Release an annual report card on women's status in Hawai'i. The report should avoid flawed measurements like the "federal poverty line" and must provide gendered analysis of official definitions of "affordable" and "poverty."
2. Institutionalize gender disaggregated data collection across state government. Create a universal training on how to collect gender and sex information.
3. Survey the general population because the government is a service provider. End-user experiences are key to any accurate reporting of the current status of women. Even corporations engage in consumer feedback. The report should include an annual Hawai'i-wide survey from women in the community-at-large to identify needs, gaps, challenges and opportunities for women. Surveying the general population to reach at least 2,000 women would cost approximately \$20,000-30,000 in partnership with the University of Hawai'i. Data analysis and report drafting would be \$15,000. The annual cost estimate is approximately \$50,000. The report should be made available to the public and easily accessible.
4. Metrics and scorecards institutionalized in government are a form of infrastructure for women.

The Plan

2. Avoid data fetishism and obsessive quantification of women's problems.

From experience, requests for more data or disaggregated data are one of the most common delaying tactics to excuse inaction on women's rights. Collecting data has become an end in itself. Certain issues like paid family leave models have been researched to death in Hawai'i and have been funded to the tune of half a million dollars from the state and federal government. HSCSW has also spent the last five years creating a body of research on sex trafficking. While we should continue to investigate these crises, action on prevention modalities is the more urgent need.

3. Stop wasting time on partial, peripheral solutions to the gender pay gap that ignore the pregnancy penalty.

The biggest barriers to equal pay for women are (1) the absence of paid family leave and (2) the lack of government provision of free childcare in Hawai'i. Focus on passing legislation to establish paid family leave and affordable childcare for all.

The Plan

4. Conduct gender impact reports on the Governor's budget and major public works to understand and prevent repercussions on women that may arise from the proposal.

See *Gambling With Women's Safety: A Feminist Assessment of the Proposed Resort-Casino* for an example of a local gender impact report: https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/1.26.21-r2.1.21-GIS-FINAL_DHHL-Casino.pdf. This will help to mainstream gender analysis beyond the silo of the Commission on the Status of Women.

5. Create an intra-government group of women leaders across Departments of the Executive Branch.

This will allow for women in government decision-making roles to consolidate power and work together to ensure women's rights are being implemented across competing goals and departments. This will encourage representation (i.e., diverse composition of government as a workplace) is more meaningful and accountable to everyday women's interests. This will also address the State of Hawai'i as an employer that continues to maintain anti-women and anti-family policies and practices.

The Plan

6.Center Native Hawaiian rights in all women’s advocacy to ensure Native Hawaiians are not overlooked or harmed by the State’s services, programs, and policies related to women.

1. Integrate a Native Hawaiian gender justice framework to all issues.
 - a. Collect data on Native Hawaiian women to pinpoint possible inequalities on specific issues (e.g. domestic violence, housing, maternal health, etc.)
 - b. Educate government actors on inequalities related to Native Hawaiian women and girls and hold public bodies accountable for their policies and practices.
 - c. Inform government actors and connected stakeholders on how to correct inequalities related to Native Hawaiian women and girls.
 - d. Create a process with Native Hawaiian leaders to encourage sustained, genuine collaboration and co-governance.
 - e. Continue to pursue legislation that mandates Native Hawaiian rights training with a gender lens for government employees.

The Plan

#6 continued...

2. Prioritize the Missing and Murdered Native Hawaiian Women and Girls crisis.

- a. Support the needs of the unfunded Missing and Murdered Native Hawaiian Women and Girls Taskforce. HSCSW was able to secure \$150,000 in private funding, which is supporting multiple paid consultants for the taskforce. Government should at least match this amount for future work.
- b. Focus on the military as a mega-employer and industry with unique aggravating factors for sex trafficking. Law enforcement cooperation between the Hawai'i State Department of the Attorney General and Department of Defense (DOD) is not enough to tackle this problem. There is a gap between Military Code of Uniform Conduct and implementation. DOD has strong policies but is not doing the necessary awareness-raising, training, and enforcement to make these policies meaningful. Simply sanctioning people who get caught is not effective. Leaders like Admiral Aquilino have not yet agreed to meet with the MMNHWG Taskforce or make a public statement of zero tolerance, which was requested by HSCSW in 2022. The State should: (1) enhance deterrence with a public statement by top US-Indo-Pacom leaders of zero tolerance for sex buying, sex trafficking, child porn consumption and sex with minors arranged online ("enticement"); (2) signage at entry and exit of bases and bathrooms against sex buying at all Hawai'i military installations; (3) data sharing by DOD on gender based violence by base; and (4) an anti-trafficking campaign across all U.S. military installations.
- c. Overcome HIDOE resistance to implementing practical, non-discriminatory sexual health education to educate boys not to buy, beat, or pimp women, girls, and gender oppressed people with public awareness campaigns and curriculum. The onus should not be on girls to avoid being victimized.

The Plan

7. End the neglect and under-resourcing of gender-based violence prevention. Direct services remain underfunded as well, but prevention work is not being done in any meaningful or effective way.

1. Domestic violence intervention programming is limited to individuals mandated by courts and requires justice system involvement—this is deeply flawed and all but guarantees rampant domestic violence for the foreseeable future.
2. Mandate sex trafficking and child sexual abuse training in all DOE schools for staff and students. As advocates say, “If talking about sexual violence makes parents uncomfortable, imagine how uncomfortable it is for a child to be sexually abused and show up to school everyday.” Rethink, redesign and rename the “Erin’s Law” campaign which has failed every year for about a decade.
3. Execute a plan to shrink the sex trade by simultaneously reducing men’s demand and women’s vulnerabilities. Destigmatize women selling sex themselves. Stigmatize men who buy sex from economically and socially marginalized people. Decriminalize women and gender oppressed people who are prostituting due to a poverty of choices. Provide a basic income to anyone who seeks to stop prostituting. Eschew “choice feminism” and sex trade expansion. Genuine harm reduction and genuinely harmful industries cannot coexist.

The Plan

8. Improve representation of extremely marginalized groups of women.

Immigrant women, trans women, incarcerated women, women with disabilities, and single mothers are not adequately represented in the women's policy arena. Starting in 2018, HSCSW created a Deaf women's task force, conducted site visits on Women's Community Correctional Center to assess conditions first-hand, and proactively supported legislation to improve the lives of transgender women. This work must continue and grow.

9. Mobilize local government and our Mayors to adapt and implement the CHANGE toolkit across all counties.

See CHANGE toolkit from the City Hub, Network for Gender Equality, and the Mayor's Office of Los Angeles.

The Plan

10. Focus on expanding access to reproductive health care.

1. Remove the prescription requirement for birth control pills.
2. Widen the path to midwifery licensure through the PEP apprenticeship to ensure homebirths do not go underground and Hawai'i-based birth practices are preserved.
3. Create and fund a statewide abortion access coordinator office. Act with a sense of urgency to address the fact that hundreds of thousands of women and pregnant people on our neighbor islands are being left behind and ignored except for by a handful of dedicated health care advocates when it comes to forced pregnancy. Abortion care is not a sub-specialty but an essential health service that must be readily available on all islands.
4. Work to incentivize the Women's Legislative Caucus to support legal abortion as a body.
5. Use the Governor's powerful platform to destigmatize abortion. Create an annual award program that recognizes abortion care providers—doctors and nurses—as Hawai'i's heroes to address the shortage in abortion care providers caused by a legitimate fear of backlash and social stigma.
6. Work to empower community groups and organizations to implement new models of public health reproductive service delivery (e.g. Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies mobile van).

Suggested Citation

Jabola-Carolus, K. (2023). Hawai'i Women's Equality Roadmap: A Ten-Point Plan for Governor Green. Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women: Honolulu, HI



HAWAII STATE
COMMISSION

ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

MEETING MATERIALS

Friday, June 2, 2023

Attachment # 4

Missing and Murdered Native Hawaiian Women and
Girls (MMNHWG) Task Force Report

HOLOI Ā NALO WĀHINE 'ŌIWI:

Missing and Murdered Native Hawaiian Women
and Girls Task Force Report



May 5, 2022 marked the largest coordinated, multi-island commemoration of National Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit (MMIWG2S) Awareness Day in Hawai'i to date. The unity of diverse ceremonies and communities generated strong emotions and relationships that have carried this report forward. Photo: Jason Lees

We recognize that we occupy Kānaka Maoli land and acknowledge the original peoples of this land as Kānaka Maoli. We recognize that her majesty Queen Lili'uokalani was illegally overthrown in 1893. We further recognize the ancestors and descendants of Kānaka Maoli and their ways of knowing and being that have protected Hawai'i in the past, present, and future.

This report is in solidarity with and recognition of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit (MMIWG2S) movement that originated in Canada and across Turtle Island. We recognize and honor the Indigenous peoples of Canada and Turtle Island in their struggles and strengths in setting precedence for the voices of native peoples across the Pacific and the world to be heard in ending violence. We mahalo the tribal nations who have created space for Kānaka Maoli to be a part of the MMIWG2S movement.

This is the first report of a two-part report. Part II will have more comprehensive information about MMNHWG and will be available in 2023.

Suggested citation:

Cristobal, N. (2022). Holoi ā nalo Wāhine 'Ōiwi: Missing and Murdered Native Hawaiian Women and Girls Task Force Report (Part 1). Office of Hawaiian Affairs; Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women: Honolulu, HI.

Principal Investigator:

Nikki Cristobal, Ph.D., Kamāwaelualani, MMNHWG Task Force

Editors:

Khara Jabola-Carolus, J.D., Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women, MMNHWG Task Force, Co-Chair

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Printed in Honolulu, Hawai'i

Published in December 2022.

A publication of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs in collaboration with Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women

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May 5th, 2022, Lihue, Kaua'i, Hawai'i. Red Dress Public Mural in honor of the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit people (MMIWG2S). Photo: Nikki Cristobal

SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

Native Hawaiian women and girls experience violence at rates disproportionate to their population size. Because of a lack of accessible data and a systemic disregard for the safety and wellbeing of Native Hawaiian women and girls on the part of government entities, the scope of the Missing and Murdered Native Hawaiian Women and Girls (MMNHWG) crisis is incomplete. Statistics on MMNHWG are highly limited. Therefore, the statistics presented in this report must be interpreted with the understanding that the true scope of the problem of MMNHWG is much larger than the meager data available can demonstrate at this time.

The lack of data on MMNHWG and on Native Hawaiian women and girls in general may leave many with the perception that MMNHWG is not an issue that warrants further exploration and/or government resources. Such perceptions directly fuel the continued erasure of Native Hawaiian women and girls. The crisis of MMNHWG is often called “the invisible crisis” due to: 1) the lack of recognition that Native Hawaiians are the Indigenous peoples of Hawai'i and that they continue to experience systemic racism; 2) no concerted

effort on the part of the federal or state government to understand and prevent MMNHWG; and 3) the avenues by which Native Hawaiian women and girls go missing or are murdered is complex and intertwined with persistent historical inequities that many people with legislative power fail to recognize are continuing to affect the condition of Native Hawaiians today.

For this report, the term “Native Hawaiian Women and Girls Violence” or “NHWG violence,” includes the underlying social, economic, cultural, institutional, and historical causes that contribute to the ongoing violence and systemic erasure of Native Hawaiian women and girls.

“Missing” for this report is broadly defined as Native Hawaiian girls (persons under the age of 18) who are deemed as “runaways” by law enforcement, meaning they voluntarily or involuntarily fled from their parent/guardian and may or may not return. Missing also includes Native Hawaiian women and girls whose whereabouts are unknown, including women and girls who are missing as a result of being trafficked and/or trapped in the military-prostitution complex.

“Murdered” for this report is defined as Native Hawaiian women and girls who are killed through violent physical means. It also includes Native Hawaiian women and girls who died under suspicious and/or complex circumstances such as drug overdose and suicide. These definitions are aligned with how other Indigenous nations are defining violence within the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls movement. These definitions also allow for the accuracy of exploring and naming the specific mechanisms of the MMNHWG crisis such as sexual assault, domestic violence, child abuse, suicide, poverty, and disenfranchisement from the land. Expanding the frame of exploration of MMNHWG beyond governmental definitions of missing and murdered creates space to center the experiences of survivors and move toward community healing in a way that is accurate and respectful.

21% of Hawai‘i’s total population (N= 1,441,553) identifies as Native Hawaiian (U.S. Census Bureau, 2021). 10.2% of the total population of Hawai‘i identifies as a Native Hawaiian female, with 47.6% of this population identified as females under the age of 18 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2021).

- More than a quarter (1/4) of missing girls in Hawai‘i are Native Hawaiian (JJIS, 2001-2021).
- Hawai‘i has the eighth highest rate of missing persons per capita in the nation at 7.5 missing people per 100,000 residents (Kynston, 2019).
- The average profile of a missing child: 15 year old, female, Native Hawaiian, missing from O‘ahu (MCCH, 2022).
- The majority (43%) of sex trafficking cases are Kānaka Maoli girls trafficked in Waikīkī, O‘ahu (Amina, 2022).
- 38% (N= 74) of those arrested for soliciting sex from a thirteen-year-old online through Operation Keiki Shield are active-duty military personnel (Hawai‘i Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, 2022).
- In 2021, the Missing Child Center Hawai‘i (MCCH) assisted law enforcement with 376 recoveries of missing children. These cases are only 19% of the estimated 2,000 cases of missing children in Hawai‘i each year (MCCH, 2021).
- On Hawai‘i Island, Kānaka Maoli children ages 15-17, represent the highest number of missing children’s cases, with the most children reported missing in area code 96720, Hilo (Hawai‘i Island Police Department, 2022).
- From 2018-2021, there were 182 cases of missing Kānaka Maoli girls on Hawai‘i Island, higher than any other racial group (N= 1,175) (Hawai‘i Island Police Department, 2022).
- 57% of participants served through the Mana‘olana Program at Child & Family Services are Native Hawaiian females who have experienced human trafficking (Mana‘olana, CFS, 2021-2022).

INTRODUCTION

Indigenous women and girls, including Native Hawaiians, experience violence at much higher rates than other populations in the United States. Native communities across Turtle Island (The North American continent) have mobilized for governmental resources and systemized responses to prevent violence against Indigenous women and girls. The leading causes of death for Indigenous girls ages 1-19 are (in order) unintentional injuries, suicide, and homicide; whereas the leading causes of death for white girls ages 1-19 are unintentional injuries, suicide, and cancer (CDC, 2016). Indigenous women and girls are 10 times more likely to be murdered than women from other ethnic groups (UIHI, 2018), are 2.5 times as likely to be raped than white women, and are more likely to be raped by a perpetrator of a different race than other racial groups (Bachman et al., 2008). A shocking 84.3% of Indigenous women experience violence in their lifetime (Rosay, 2016),

Policymakers have developed initiatives in response to the crisis of murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls (MMIWG) including the White House proclamation of National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls in 2019 and Executive Order 13898 that creates task forces for missing and murdered Indigenous peoples to address concerns around data collection, policies, and investigative responses. Since these legislative milestones, more than 12 states have designated task forces to research MMIWG. This year (2022) marked the first year that Kānaka Maoli (the Indigenous, anachronous peoples of Hawai'i) were formally recognized by a United States President as belonging to the Indigenous populations disproportionately impacted by interpersonal and systemic violence that leads to Native women and girls being murdered and missing.

¹ The term “Kānaka Maoli” is used when referring to those of Native Hawaiian descent regardless of blood quantum. According to the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, native Hawaiian (with a lowercase “n”) is the “legal” definition of a Kānaka Maoli as someone who is no less than half Hawaiian by blood. The use of Native Hawaiian (with a capital “N”) has become a common signifier for anyone of Kānaka Maoli heritage, regardless of blood quantum level. In this report, the term “Kānaka Maoli” is used to refer to all those from Kānaka Maoli heritage without regard to blood quantum. The use of “native Hawaiian” or “Native Hawaiian” is used in instances where this term was used in cited statistics. “Native Hawaiian” is also used in acronyms, including “MMNHWG TF” and “NHWG Violence.”

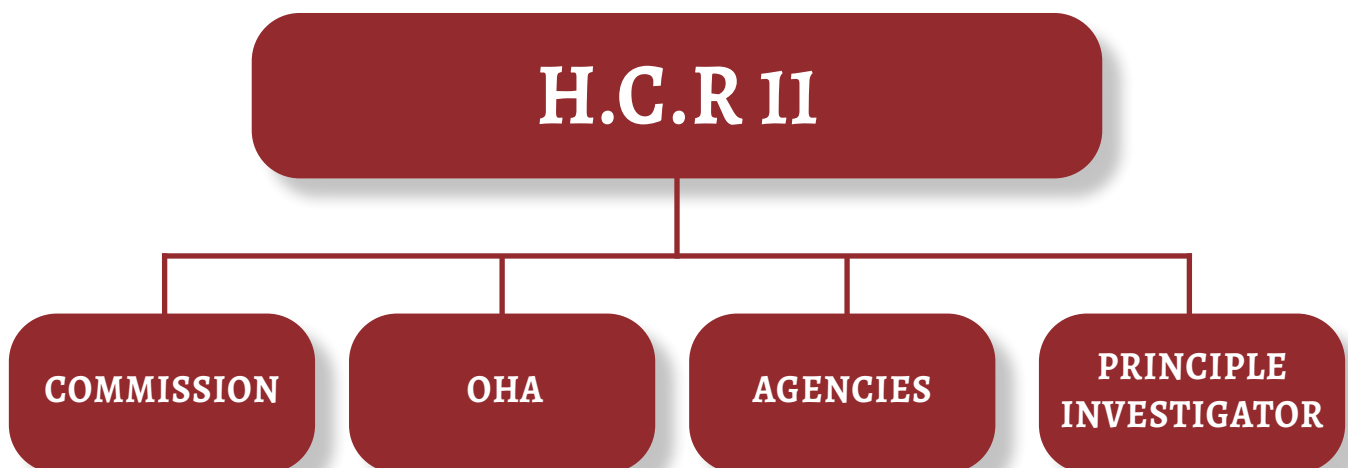
SCOPE OF THE REPORT

Pursuant to H.C.R. 11, the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) convened a Task Force to study Missing and Murdered Native Hawaiian Women and Girls (MMNHWG). The Missing and Murdered Native Hawaiian Women and Girls Task Force (MMNHWG TF) is administered through the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) and is comprised of individuals representing over 22 governmental and non-governmental organizations across Hawai'i that provide services to those who are impacted by violence against Kānaka Maoli. The MMNHWG TF has the kuleana of understanding the drivers that lead to Kānaka Maoli women and girls to be missing and murdered, to propose solutions, and to raise public awareness about violence against Kānaka Maoli. The findings and recommendations in this report were provided to members of the MMNHWG TF for review and their insights were included. Any disparate agreement with the findings and recommendations will be noted.

The MMNHWG TF chaired through CSW and OHA contracted with the principal investigator of this report to conduct research to prepare reports on

MMNHWG. Members of the MMNHWG TF were selected and named by the Hawai'i State Legislature. The MMNHWG TF is unique in that it is the only MMIWG Task Force nationally that is led by a government women's commission and native advocacy organizations rather than by law enforcement agencies. This is the first report to attempt to reliably indicate how many Kānaka Maoli women and girls are murdered and missing and measure the responses of various governmental and nongovernmental services.

The MMNHWG TF, held seven virtual meetings to discuss the process for program-level data collection and sharing and to engage in discourse about the disposition of MMNHWG in their respective fields, departments, and programs. In between full task force meetings, the principal investigator met with individual task force members to work on obtaining quantitative data from specific programs that provide direct service to those impacted by MMNHWG. The data presented about MMNHWG in this report were validated for accuracy by members of the MMNHWG TF.





METHODOLOGY (DATA SOURCES)

This preliminary report includes two main sources of information: 1) a comprehensive literature review; and 2) data obtained from state and community agencies. The purpose of the literature review is to holistically understand the scope of the problem of MMNHWG and to identify solutions informed by the pre-existing literature base.

The following research questions were addressed for this report:

1. What are the demographic characteristics of missing and murdered Kānaka Maoli women and girls?
2. What are the experiences of surviving Kānaka Maoli women and girls and their families as they are navigated through and/or navigate the process when recovered?

The full report will address additional research questions which can be found in Appendix A.

With the assistance of the MMNHWG TF, the principal investigator obtained preliminary data and statistics to help form a macro-level understanding of the scope and extent of NHWG violence.



ORGANIZATION OF THE REPORT

The crisis of MMNHWG is a highly complex story with multiple, intersecting layers that make up the problem. Readers of this report can think of NHWG violence as a highly sophisticated ‘eke lau hala or a basket woven using lau hala (pandanus leaves) and the traditional methods of Kānaka Maoli ulana or weaving. An ‘eke lau hala has several overlapping leaves that are tightly woven to fashion a functional item made for carrying or protecting items. What this report seeks to carry and protect are the lives of Kānaka Maoli women and girls.

When weaving, we start at the center - the piko. The piko of NHWG violence is colonization. From the piko, the weaver must set pins in place to weave. These pins are where the lau hala are held

in place so the weaver can weave a pattern that reveals itself as one weaves. The reader must be cognizant of the fact that this preliminary report is one pin in the larger weaving project of this ‘eke lau hala and the finished product requires far more material and time in order to weave.

This report is organized from the piko out. Current understandings of violence against NHWG are discussed through the lens of historical trauma and factors associated with NHWG violence including specific systemic inequities that fuel the crisis of MMNHWG.

BACKGROUND

Colonization and Kānaka Maoli Erasure

The piko (center) of NHWG violence is colonization. Colonization is a structure that originates from the history of Kānaka Maoli relationships with colonial powers, such as the United States, and is upheld through various colonial mechanisms. In Hawai'i, these colonial mechanisms are ideologies that justify the displacement and erasure of Kānaka Maoli through economic, social, and environmental laws and practices of the United States government.

In 1893, Queen Lili'uokalani, the last reigning monarch of the Kingdom of Hawai'i was illegally overthrown and falsely imprisoned by an oligarchy of U.S. businessmen. Hawai'i's legal annexation has yet to be ratified, meaning according to the laws of the United States, the Kingdom of Hawai'i, and the United Nations, Hawai'i is an independent nation heavily occupied by the United States. Through colonization, the laws of the United States that govern an illegally annexed Independent Native Hawaiian nation, is pretense for continued systemic violence via erasure and displacement of Kānaka Maoli.

Kānaka Maoli women are displaced by colonization in unique ways. For example, Kānaka Maoli women are victims of gender-based violence such as domestic violence and sexual assault more than any other population in Hawai'i (OHA et al., 2020). Prior to the arrival of the first colonizers from Britain in 1778, Kānaka Maoli practiced gender fluid beliefs. In one of the first acts of colonial displacement, U.S. missionaries replaced Kānaka Maoli women's 'ōlelo Hawai'i names with Christian first names and a patrilineal surname. Traditionally, names were passed down matrilineally, so erasing and replacing Kānaka Maoli names signified an ideological shift from a Hawai'i society that honored matrilineality to one that was congruent with western patriarchy. Additionally, when British colonizers first arrived

in Hawai'i, Kānaka Maoli women engaged in intercourse with these men. Their gender and sexuality was non-monogamous and non-heteronormative. Kānaka Maoli women then became spaces of colonial violence, through the rapid decline of the Kānaka Maoli population from sexually transmitted diseases to which they had no immunity. Furthermore, when businessmen from the U.S. and European nations established the whaling industry in Hawai'i in the 18th century, they came to expect that Kānaka Maoli women would be available to them for sex in exchange for material goods, thus, introducing the concept of prostitution parallel to the introduction of foreign capitalistic systems of currency and exchange. When a kapu (ban) was placed on prostitution, whalers and businessmen responded violently.



Historically, Kānaka Maoli women were the first to have their physical mana (spiritual power) controlled through violent, sexualized, patriarchal colonial processes of erasure, sterilization, and birthing. Today, Kānaka Maoli women continue to be sexually subjugated. For example, the iconic image of the scantily clothed, hip-shaking hula dancer is one that makes Kānaka Maoli women objects of sexual desire in the minds of foreign men. The commodifying and sexualizing of a sacred Kānaka Maoli art form (hula) is validated through ideologies of Kānaka Maoli women as uncivilized and needing salvation through relationships with white, western men.

Historical Trauma

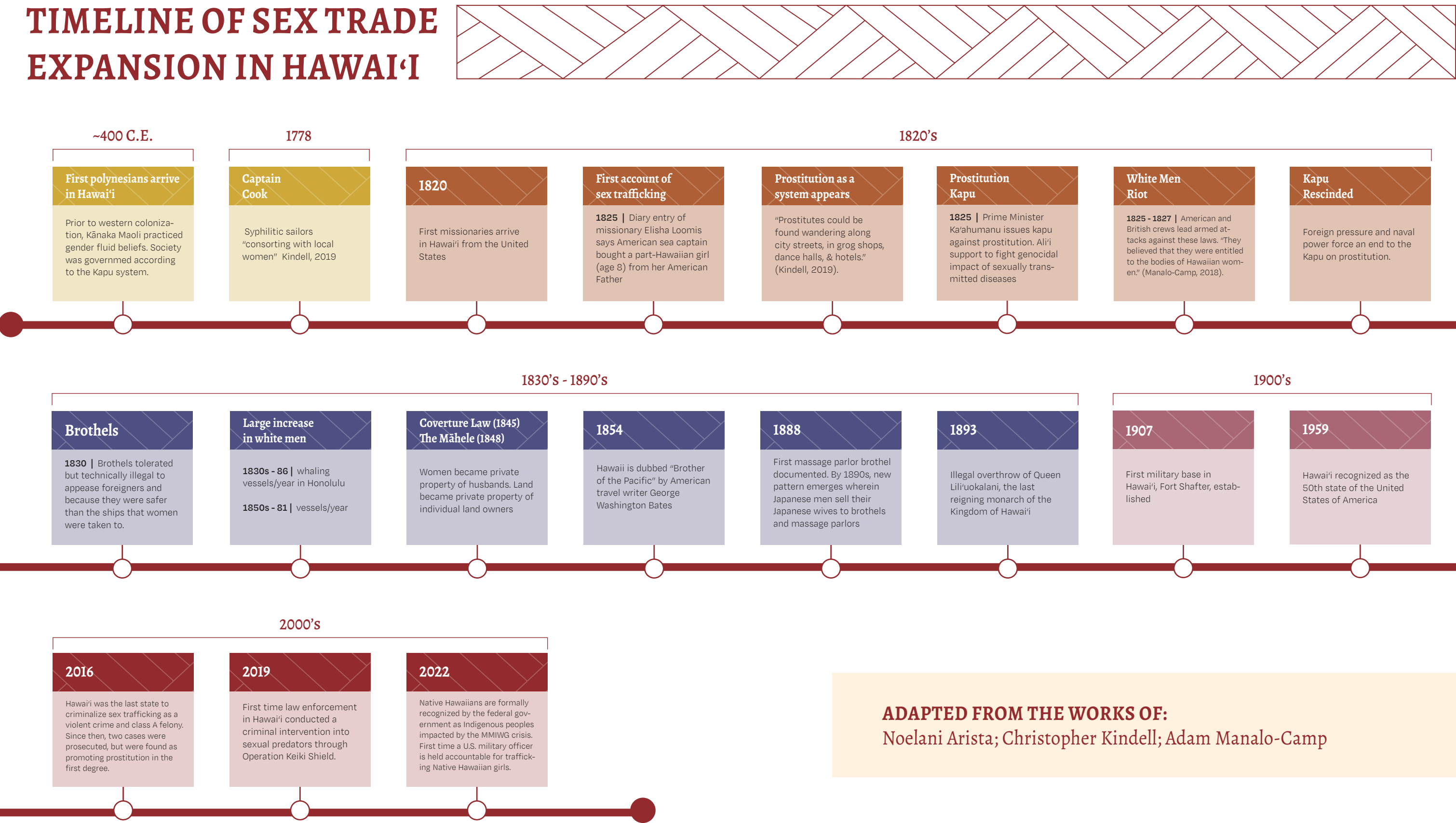
Colonization is not a one-off event of the past. Colonization continues in practices of the present. Today, colonization is maintained through imperialism via the heavy military presence and land holdings in Hawai'i and capitalism via the domination of the tourism industry. Both industries (military and tourism) are the most extractive industries in Hawai'i in terms of environmental and cultural resources. Militarism and tourism are justified through United States colonial law that is upheld through the misplacement of Kānaka Maoli within the United States constitution. The Kingdom of Hawai'i was not affiliated with the United States during the writing of the United States constitution. Given that the United States constitution and subsequent legislation were not created with Kānaka Maoli in mind, those who remain the most constitutionally protected by the power of the United States legal system are people who are U.S. citizens, white, male, upper class, and land-owning (i.e., the types of people who the law was written by and for). The State of Hawai'i's current legal system was built upon a foundation of Kānaka Maoli erasure that directly sustains the systemic inequities of today. An automatic acceptance of colonial jurisprudence that operates from a fallacy of equal treatment regardless of race/ethnicity, class, gender/sexuality, etc ensures that Kānaka Maoli women and girls continue to be lost within a web

of systemic social and economic inequities that kill and displace them.

The past has tangible impacts on the present and future. According to a study by Pokhrel & Herzog (2014), 81% of Kānaka Maoli college students reported thinking about the loss of their ancestral lands, 87% reported thinking about loss of 'ōlelo Hawai'i, 66% reported thinking about unfair treatment by the U.S. government, and 12-15% reported thinking several times a day about the lack of respect for elders and traditional Kānaka Maoli ways of being. These are factors that contribute to the prevalence of mental health issues in Kānaka Maoli. Speaking specifically to the ongoing effects of colonization on Kānaka Maoli health, Kānaka Maoli on average, experience a shorter lifespan (Aluli et al., 2007; Johnson et al., 2004), a higher occurrence of heart attacks and obesity (Mau et al., 2009), and higher rates of psychological and emotional difficulties (Burrage et al., 2021) than other major racial/ethnic groups in Hawai'i. Additionally, Kānaka Maoli have the highest poverty, unemployment, and homelessness rates of all major ethnic groups in Hawai'i (Look et al., 2020). Within compulsory educational systems Kānaka Maoli students perform lower on standardized tests, experience lower graduation and college-going rates (Kana'iaupuni et al., 2021), are overrepresented in special education courses, and have lower math and reading proficiency rates than other racial/ethnic groups in Hawai'i (OHA, 2017).

These statistics should be understood as consequences of colonization, rather than as a learned or inherent deficiency of Kānaka Maoli individuals or communities. The harm caused by colonization is intergenerationally transmitted in what is commonly known across disciplines as historical trauma. Historical trauma is defined as "cumulative emotional and psychological wounding across generations, including the lifespan, which emanates from massive group trauma" (Brave Heart et al., 2011, p. 283).

TIMELINE OF SEX TRADE EXPANSION IN HAWAI‘I



ADAPTED FROM THE WORKS OF:
Noelani Arista; Christopher Kindell; Adam Manalo-Camp

MMNHG SYSTEMIC INEQUITIES

Systemic inequities are closely woven to the prevalence of NHWG violence. Systemic inequities create material conditions that make everyday life a challenge. Some may refer to these systemic inequities as “risk factors” for being murdered and missing. Using the term “systemic inequities” is a way to be more deliberate with naming the mechanisms of violence against Kānaka Maoli women and girls as a social epidemic needing systemic responses

POVERTY

In 2021, 9.8% of Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander families were living in poverty compared to 8.0% of the total population. General poverty rates show that 13.3% of Native Hawaiians live in poverty compared to 11.2% of the total population (U.S. Census Bureau, 2021). Kānaka Maoli women are impacted adversely by race and also by gender. The gender wage gap is the disparity between what men are paid and what women are paid on average. In Hawai‘i, Kānaka Maoli women are paid 29% less than white men and 18% less than Kānaka Maoli

men (Anderson & Williams-Baron, 2017; OHA, 2018). The largest disparities in terms of poverty status for Kānaka Maoli women and girls is at age 15 (5% higher than non-Native Hawaiian females) and at ages 25-34 (over 10% higher than non-Native Hawaiian males and 4.1% higher than Native Hawaiian males of the same age) (OHA, 2018). These ages are vital to healthy human development since adolescence is a time of critical growth.

SUBSTANCE DEPENDENCE

Substance abuse, such as binge drinking and illicit drug use, are spiritual disconnectors that can lead to Kānaka Maoli erasure through death. Kānaka Maoli, for example, are two times more likely to die of alcohol-induced cirrhosis than the overall average for all ethnic groups

in Hawai‘i (HHDW, BRFSS, 2020). 52.9% of Kānaka Maoli high school girls have tried illicit drugs, which is 15.8% higher than non-Kānaka Maoli girls and 17% higher than for Kānaka Maoli boys (HHDW, YRBS, 2019).

FOSTER CARE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE INVOLVEMENT

Kānaka Maoli children are overrepresented in placement in the Hawai‘i Department of Human Services (DHS) Child Welfare Services (CWS) foster care system. In 2019, 45% of children in foster care in Hawai‘i (N=1,238) were Kānaka Maoli (DHS, CWS 2021).

44.4% (N= 151) of “street youth,” including those who are homeless and runaways, are Kānaka Maoli, the largest percentage of any racial/ethnic group in Hawai‘i (Yuan et al., 2018). More than one in 10 homeless youth on O‘ahu reported selling sex to survive on the streets, with two-thirds (65%) of these youth reporting that they were forced by a third party (Yuan et al., 2018).

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

BARRIERS

Kānaka Maoli have been left out of dominant discourse and federal resource allocation to address violence against Indigenous communities in the U.S. The highly marginalized nature of Kānaka Maoli within the already sparse data on MMIWG contributes to public and legislative sentiment that MMNHWG is not a problem.

There is no uniform and streamlined way that data is collected on Kānaka Maoli by various agencies across Hawai'i. Governmental agencies and nonprofit organizations that work closely with lived experience survivors of NHWG violence either do not collect data that is disaggregated by race or collect data in a way that is not easily extractable for use in research. Using an intersectional approach to inquiry, sex/gender data is also either not collected or is not disaggregated by race. For instance, many governmental agencies collect sex data using the categories of male, female and Native Hawaiian, but do not specifically collect data on Kānaka Maoli females.

The lack of disaggregated data is further complicated by the inconsistencies in racial definitions when race data is collected. There are four main counties in Hawai'i: Kaua'i, Maui, Honolulu, and Hawai'i. The police departments in each county are responsible for responding to crimes and recording data for their entire jurisdiction using their own methods. Therefore, data are handled differently by county. All police department representatives stated that a barrier to understanding the problem of MMNHWG is because the data is only as good as what is reported at the time of the incident. Often times this means that race data are not collected at all.

A common barrier to deeply understanding NHWG violence is that Kānaka Maoli are often misclassified as belonging to other racial categories. In the high-profile case of missing six-year-old Isabella Kalua, mainstream news outlets failed to identify her as Kanaka Maoli. Isabella Kalua was reported as Caucasian.

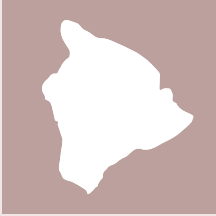
Because of the siloed nature of response to community concerns in Hawai'i by island and by governmental department, data sharing between islands and agencies to holistically understand the problem of MMNHWG and collaboratively enact solutions is not streamlined in a way that makes data requests timely and feasible for community awareness and research.

In addition to inconsistent and absent data collection processes, sexual and physical violence are highly underreported crimes because of fear of retribution and the shame associated with victim-blaming.



May 5th, National MMIWG2S Day, Waikīkī, O'ahu. Photo: Jason Lees

MURDERED AND MISSING



HAWAII ISLAND: Marlo Moku, a Kanaka Maoli woman, went missing at age 33 in Hilo, Hawaii in September 2008. Marlo Moku's crashed vehicle was found at the bottom of a cliff

at Hakalau Mill Landing and evidence suggests there did not appear to be a person inside the vehicle when it was rolled off the cliff. Searches for Marlo Moku have been unsuccessful. Marlo Moku's case remains open and unsolved.



O'AHU: Lisa Au, a 19 year old Kanaka Maoli University of Hawaii'i Mānoa college student and hair stylist, went missing on January 20, 1982, on O'ahu. She was last seen getting food

on her way to Makiki. Her naked body was discovered in a ravine near Tantalus. Her now 40-year-old case remains cold and her murderer has yet to be identified and brought to justice.

The average profile of a missing child report processed through the Missing Children's Center Hawaii'i (MCCH): 15-year-old, female, Native Hawaiian, missing from O'ahu (MCCH, 2022).

Of the 37 cases publicly reported by MCCH between 2020-2022, the average age of a missing child is 15-years-old, 77% are female, 84% are Native Hawaiian, and 71% went missing on O'ahu. Of the 71% of cases tied to O'ahu the only district information available located missing children from South O'ahu (one from Ewa Beach, two from Kalihi, and two from Waikiki) (MCCH, 2022).

From 2011-2021, 26% of all missing females age 17 and below were Hawaiian/part-Hawaiian girls (n= 254) and represented 13% (N= 504) of all missing children's cases in Hawaii'i (JJIS, 2022).



May 5th, National MMIWG2S Day, Waikiki, O'ahu. The Red Dress is an international symbol of MMIWG2S started by Métis artist Jaime Black. The red symbolizes the blood of those missing and murdered and the empty dress represents the spirits of those stolen from violence.

VIOLENCE

Domestic Violence

37.6% of adults who experience physical violence by an intimate partner in Hawai'i are Indigenous (including Native American/ American Indian and Native Hawaiian), higher than any other racial group (HHDW, BRFSS, 2013).

In 2017, of the 29.9% of high school students who report being emotionally abused by an intimate partner in the past 12 months, 38% are Kānaka Maoli females, which is higher than Kānaka Maoli males or females of other ethnicities (HHDW, YRBS, 2017).

Untangling the web of inequities that maintain NHWG violence, domestic violence (DV) is the leading cause of homelessness for women and children (NNEDV, 2017). 22% of O'ahu's homeless Kānaka Maoli population report experiencing intimate partner violence compared to 18% of non-Kānaka Maoli. Of the 22%, 14% are unsheltered compared to 11% of non-Kānaka Maoli. 22% of DV survivors filing a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) are Kānaka Maoli (OHA et al., 2020).

Sexual Assault

Of the 10.8% of high school students who reported being sexually abused by anyone in the last 12 months, 16.5% were Kānaka Maoli females; higher than females of all other racial groups (HHDW, YRBS, 2019).

Of the 6.1% of middle school students who reported being sexually abused by anyone in the last 12 months, 7.8% were Kānaka Maoli females; higher than females of other racial groups and Kānaka Maoli males (HHDW, YRBS, 2019).

In 2019, majority of arrested adult sex offenders were white males (DAG, 2019).

Out of all those arrested through Operation Keiki Shield, 38% (N= 74) were active-duty military personnel. These military personnel were arrested both off and on military bases as part of non-military covert operations that targeted civilians off-base and "military ops" between the U.S. military and local law enforcement to arrest on-base offenders who commit internet-facilitated sexual crimes against children (HICAC Task Force, 2022). For example, 25% of the offenders arrested in a March 2019 operation, which was not a "military op" and which was the only documented non-military Operation Keiki Shield operation on O'ahu since 2019, were military men. The majority of non-military, civilian operations have been conducted on Kaua'i and Maui, which have a significantly smaller military population than O'ahu. None of the offenders arrested have been women.

Commercial Sexual Exploitation

There are at least 85 known sex traffickers in Hawai'i. Majority of known sex traffickers in Hawai'i are male (83%) and the most common relationship a trafficker has with a victim is a pimp (36%) (Amina, 2022).

59% of clients (N= 147; n= 86) served through Susannah Wesley Community Center between October 2021-May 2022 are trafficking victims. 37% of cases are sex trafficking cases, the majority (86%) are female and (45%) are Native Hawaiian/part-Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander (Amina, 2022).

71% of trafficking victims are below the age of 19 and 46.8% of all cases are Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) cases and Child Sex Trafficking cases (Amina, 2022).

PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS

This report should be contextualized as a stepping stone to continuing this work. It will take many more years of targeted efforts in research, policy, and practice to gain the data necessary to understand the full scope of violence against NHWG and implement recommendations that can prevent this violence from continuing.

UNIVERSAL, SYSTEMIZED DATA COLLECTION

Although the lack of data about MMNHWG is evident, the data that is available, and the experiences of survivors of NHWG violence, demonstrates a critical need for more structured, systematic, and streamlined data collection between governmental agencies.

Colonization, as embedded in every inch and corner of every system, means that quantitative data is not neutral. Indigenous erasure happens not only via the murder and displacing of NHWG, but also the erasure of NHWG in the data itself. The conflating of “Native Hawaiian” with “Other Pacific Islander” and “Native Hawaiian” with “Asian” leaves the statistical story of violence against NHWG incomplete.

Survivors of violence, family members of survivors, and service providers are keen to the realities of this crisis in Hawai‘i and data collection efforts by governmental agencies need to better reflect these realities.

Given the sensitive and complex nature of NHWG violence, the current state of incomplete and inconsistent data collection on NHWG violence across law enforcement and other governmental agencies, it is highly likely that the true depth of the problem of NHWG violence is underestimated.

Data collection is specifically hindered by:

1. A lack of disaggregated racial data;
2. A lack of data collection regarding race/ethnicity, gender/sexuality, and other demographic indicators in general;
3. A lack of a uniform and clear process for sharing data publicly and between agencies;
4. Underreporting of crimes that lead to MMNHWG such as sex trafficking; and
5. Racial misidentification.

Although data aggregation is often used as an approach to increase sample size and statistical power when analyzing data from smaller population groups, it can limit the understanding of disparities among diverse subpopulations such as Kānaka Maoli. The data that does exist regarding the systemic inequities that lead to MMNHWG is typically not disaggregated by race/ethnicity and is not stored by the DOH or other entities in a way that allows for multivariate analyses or analyses that can look at multiple variables (i.e., Race AND sex AND age) at once. The scarcity of reliable, disaggregated data that can be analyzed with the complexity that understanding the crisis of MMNHWG requires is a huge barrier to understanding problems and solutions.

LESSONS LEARNED

Representatives from critical entities are uninvolved in responding to the MMNHWG crisis. Namely, representatives from the United States military and the tourism sector are absent from this process and are not encouraged by the legislature to participate in this report. Lack of representation on the MMNHWG Task Force is problematic given that the military and tourism are two of the biggest industries in Hawai'i and are also the most extractive in terms of natural resources and land holdings.

During the process of discussing the various data points identified as important to understanding the extent of missing and murdered NHWG, law

enforcement representatives shared that suspicious deaths and suicides are determined by the coroner. Most Task Force members were unaware of the role of the coroner's office in understanding the problem of MMNHWG.

This preliminary report demonstrated that while there is data on contextual factors such as domestic violence, sexual assault, and commercial sex exploitation, there is less data available on characteristics, such as race, for data directly related to murdered and missing NHWG. This preliminary report exemplified that even among service providers reporting of data is limited.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Enriching the data collection process by engaging in a qualitative research design allows for the centering of the experiences of key experts in the field. Key experts in the field include lived experience survivors or those who have or are currently experiencing NHWG violence and their families. Key experts also include social workers, therapists, law enforcement officers, military personnel, hospitality and tourism administrators, coroners, activists, etc. The creation of MMNHWG Task Force focus groups is a proposed way to strengthen data collection and strengthen our understanding of MMNHWG.



May 5, 2022 National MMIWG2S Day, Maui.

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MMNHWG Preliminary Report (Part One)

Produced by the OHA Communications Department

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MAHALO

Mahalo to Papa Ola Lōkahi Inc. for providing funding for a researcher to complete this report. Mahalo to Representative Stacelynn Eli for her advocacy for MMNHWG. To the Urban Indian Health Institute for their guidance and training in addressing violence against native women and girls in Hawai'i and across Turtle Island. To the MMNHWG Task Force members who have given of their time to provide insight, feedback, and engage in efforts to acquire data. Last but not least, the Missing and Murdered Native Hawaiian Women and Girls Task Force would like to acknowledge the many native women and girls and their 'ohana who have been impacted by violence.

THIS REPORT WAS CREATED IN COLLABORATION WITH

